

Sedgefield News

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By the Villagers for the Villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
October 2003

Success comes Sedgefield's way once again in the Northumbria in Bloom competition

Congratulations to all involved, both those who work on the public areas and all the amateur enthusiasts who do so much to enhance our already beautiful environment. Here are winter & spring to reminisce on, and to remind us of some of the reasons why our small town makes such an impression, whatever the season.



Racecourse Rumours

We thought it important to clear up the facts, after uncertainty about the meaning of press & TV reports on the proposed purchase of Sedgefield Racecourse and the loss of the Boxing Day meeting. Subject to confirmation at Extra General Meetings in October, Northern Racing Ltd, current

owners of Sedgefield Racecourse, will be purchased by Chepstow Racecourse plc, with whom there has recently been a close working relationship. **The Boxing Day meeting will go ahead this year and in future at Sedgefield**, but will be missed in 2004, while course improvements are made.

BSF - education in the 21st century...

*...and what exactly is a
'Community Hub'?*

Decipher the jargon and, more importantly, put some thought into the future of our childrens' and our own future learning. See page 6

Bonkers or Conkers?

*By now you'll have cottoned on to the fact that our monthly colour change is trying to say something about the changing seasons. Mm, those autumn flavours! Rose hips - did you pick them for three-pence a lb, for the post-war government efforts on baby nutrition? And all that food for free - brambles, wind-fall apples, sloes for gin, elderberries for wine, cob-nuts, quinces - the list is endless. Maybe we shouldn't romanticise it too much, though. Tatie-picking week was, probably still is, hard earned money! But what about Halloween lanterns? Are turnips just too much hard work these days, or do those pumpkins look too luscious to resist? Anyway, it's a glorious time of the year, so enjoy the fruits of the season. **Anyone for a game of conkers? And does anyone remember the rules!?***

College celebrates exam success

I hope tales of success in examinations have reached the residents of Sedgefield. We are absolutely delighted to inform you that your college has had the **best results ever!**

Here are some statistics that are so straightforward they cannot lie.

100% of students educated at the college achieved one or more G.C.S.E. (against a National Average of 66%).

93% of our students achieved 5 or more G.C.S.E. Grades.

70% of students living in Sedgefield achieved 5 or more G.C.S.E.

Grades at A -C (the best in County Durham and I suspect, in the immediate locality).

45% of all of our students achieved 5 G.C.S.E. Grades at A-C.

Finally, our attendance is now 94.6% which is 4% better than the National Average.

So - students, staff and parents - well done! The figures speak for themselves but as always we are not going to be complacent. We know there are things to sort out and we welcome ideas and suggestions from all members of our community.

For instance we are looking forward to an anti-litter meeting on 23rd September, organised by the Town Council. The leadership team is also setting up some focus groups to look at specific aspects of our work.

The first of these is led by Miriam Buhler-Willey (assistant head teacher) and is on Gifted and Talented Students. Invitations to be part of the focus groups will be issued, but if you are particularly interested in an aspect of our work please phone me for a chat about it. The number is 625300 and my personal assistant is Gillian.

Let's celebrate the enormous strides forward we have made and be proud of our college. Next month, news on the proposed re-build.

Lynne Ackland - Headteacher

The stars at night

can be very big & bright!

Have you been walking around with your eyes skyward, trying to spot the planet Mars?

Perhaps you're one of the many peering out of the bedroom window in the dead of night!

Interest in the skies has certainly been boosted by the proximity of the red planet recently.

Well, did you know you can visit a planetarium and observatory just a few miles down the road? I did just that in September and it was a fascinating way to spend an evening, finding out some of the mysteries of the universe.

To find it, just head towards Stockton on the A177, turn left at the crossroads near Thorpe Thewles and follow the signs to the left of that minor road, into the planetarium car park.

The Castle Eden Walkway Planetarium and Observatory

has just celebrated its first birthday and is well worth a visit by individuals, groups or families (the planetarium covers the National Curriculum requirements at all the Key Stages of school progress). Prices are £3 per adult & £1.50 concessions and there is also a £6 unlimited family ticket.

Public shows are on Friday evenings fortnightly at 7.30pm and there are currently two shows to choose from.

"What's up?" is on October 3rd, November 7th & December 5th and **"Beagle 2 Mars"** shows on October 24th, November 21st & December 19th.

To be sure of a seat or for further details, contact John McCue on 01740 630544, or e-mail

planetarium@btopenworld.com,

The website is at

www.planetarium.btinternet.co.uk

The planetarium is a joint venture between the Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society and Stockton Borough Council.

Youth Work, Level 1 Certificate

An opportunity is available for someone interested in completing a qualification in the above award, and is available for anyone aged 16 +.

For further details or application pack please contact

Diane Major, Education in the Community,
Durham County Council,
c/o Chilton Junior School, Chilton, Ferryhill,
County Durham, DL170PT

Firework Display

The annual Bonfire night celebration takes place in Ceddesfield Hall Grounds on Saturday November 1st, starting at 6:30 pm

Tickets, priced Adults £1, Children 50p are available from Council Offices, Post Office & Local Schools

Lantern Parade

This year the Town Council are working in conjunction with Sedgefield Hardwick and Sedgefield Rectory Row schools and aim to produce large lanterns along with our usual smaller lanterns for the Annual Lantern Parade which will take place on November 1st prior to the firework display. Full details will be available from the Council Offices or through the schools from Mid October

New Year's Eve Dance

At the time of going to press 10 tickets at £15 each are still available for the New Years Eve Dance in the Parish Hall. This is a very popular event and is limited in numbers, so first come first served. These are available at the Town Council Offices, **payment with purchase only.**

Eden Drive Play Area

The Town Council would like to thank the Eden Drive Play committee for their kind donation of £44. This amount remains after the group, in conjunction with the Borough Council, provided the new equipment on the Eden Drive Play area.

Sharon Till, who was involved with the group, has approached the Town Council regarding the balance in their account and it was suggested that this could be given as a donation towards the new Play area being planned for Winterton Park.

Further details on this will be forthcoming soon.

Citizen of the Year

Do you know someone who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to this community?

If you wish to put someone forward for the Citizen of the Year Award pick up a Nomination Form from the Advice & Information Centre, or phone 629011 to have one sent to you.

Sedgefield has always had a good share of people with talent and dedication to the community and this is one way of celebrating their gifts to us of time, effort and imagination.

Sedgefield War Memorial

As most people will be aware conservation work was due to start on the war memorial at this time last year, thanks to a 50% grant from English Heritage towards the overall costs.

However, the contractor employed then was unable to carry out the work, due to his accepting a position himself with English Heritage. As a result, the Town Council have had to look for new tenders. The revised tenders are considerably more expensive but fortunately English Heritage has agreed to pay 50% of the increased costs and the new tender from Graciela Ainsworth has now been accepted. The Town Council hopes that the works will be carried out at least in time for this year's Service of Remembrance.

New Community Pharmacist for Sedgefield Borough

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust has appointed a new Community Pharmacist, Jane Laws who will work with the 19 community pharmacies in the area and will lead on implementing the County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Pharmacy Strategy in the area.

In her new role, Jane will involve community pharmacy in providing health care, improve medicines management services and find ways to help patients get the best from their medicines.

Among her plans for the future are **repeat dispensing** and **out of hours** as well as a **minor ailment scheme**, which will allow people to obtain medicines such as cough and cold remedies direct from their pharmacy without a prescription. Such schemes are designed to improve patients' access to their local pharmacy and to generally make their lives easier.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The next market is on **Sunday 12th October**
9:30am to 1:30pm.

Local traders are welcome.

Please contact
Bob Harris on
01740 621273
for details.

Community Safety *with contributions from Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Police, & the Road Safety Group*

Neighbourhood Watch meets Chief Constable of Durham, Mr. Paul Garvin

Invited by the Panel, Mr. Garvin opened his address on 12th August by introducing himself and his Operational Manager for Sedgefield Division, Inspector Ian Coates and local bobby, Keith Todd, who as regulars will know, attends all our meetings.

Mr. Garvin described his vision for policing in the County for the next five years at least. In summary he believes the way forward is through local community policing, tackling local problems with officers at the 'front end' and not in higher management posts. He also said this would only be achieved by his force working in close partnership with all relevant parties - Local & Borough Councils, Community Force, Resident Associations and others such as N/Hood Watch groups.

Mr. Garvin then raised the issue 'Fear of Crime', providing some impressive statistics. Though Durham residents live in one of the safest counties in England, they have the worst fear of crime of any county! He gave a number of reasons, particularly that of residents seeing large groups of young people gathering together and felt this was a major contributor to their view on crime. He went on to indicate how very important it is that all relevant groups strive to get across the correct facts and deliver the 'right press' to residents. He emphasised that Sedgefield Borough is one of the safest areas to live in the County & that Sedgefield Village is one of the safest in the Borough.

On the Durham Force Re-organisation, he stated that to deliver intelligence-lead policing by investing in Front Line Officers was heavy on resources, but the changes being made were aimed at increasing front line staff and reducing the level of management and definitely NOT reducing numbers overall. He mentioned a new National radio system which will be online in Durham this month and County wide by spring 2004. There are to be 2 Divisions with control rooms at Bishop Auckland & Aykley Heads and he anticipates this will be complete by Christmas. He reaffirmed that there will be no reduction in officers in any local area and that local beat officers will NOT be withdrawn at any location. It is his view that by moving to 2 Divisions, some existing barriers will be eradicated and it will enable larger numbers of officers to

respond to events that have previously not been resourced adequately. He expects much more flexibility from the new structure.

Mr. Garvin then spoke about the conflict between youth & more elderly elements of the community and how the Police are 'piggy in the middle' when the real issues have to be solved in the community, by the community. He pointed out that statistically the real victims of crime are the young and not the elderly.

He spoke at length on the long-standing issue of travelers in Sedgefield and this topic moved the talk naturally into the Q & A session. Several questions were raised and all were fielded honestly and openly, but he gave no hope of any change that might have been pressed for by those residents most adversely affected by the presence of travelers.

During this session the issue of two-way communications was raised, highlighting the need for the Police to feedback to residents and interested groups such as N/hood Watch, especially if the right information is to be available to the community. Low level anti social behaviour was discussed; Mr. Garvin explained that by effective Community Policing (use of the local 'bobby' with support from Local Authorities) this problem can be significantly reduced and he gave examples from his own personal experience. He said he wanted his officers to engage in this area even if it was not a real police issue and by this method we should see a gradual improvement, leading to fewer large scale problems in the future. He went on to define his remit for leadership by his officers and talked about the training requirement in place for them.

Drug abuse, a concern to most, was discussed and Mr. Garvin candidly explained the way he and his officers put most resource and effort into targeting Dealers. But he emphasised their consistent efforts at local low-level users also. He also indicated a new tool at their disposal - Asset Confiscation - again targeting criminals higher up the chain. In response to a question, PC Todd advised that parents are formally informed when their children are stopped or involved in illegal activities; however last year this had produced

quite a hostile response from the majority of parents involved.

At the end of the Q & A session members thanked the Chief Constable for his informative and candid views, giving him a resounding round of applause.

Some Random Comments from Members Following the Meeting:

"He seemed a genuine person" "It was worth listening to" "I'm happier about the drugs side of things" "Fear of Crime, he doesn't live in the real world" "He really avoided the Traveler issue" "I'm glad I came" "There was too much talk about the Travelers again" "Better than expected" "He didn't shun anything" "Weak response to loutish behaviour" "Felt he was honest and sincere" "Not very impressed"

We apologise for not issuing this summary with last month's News, due to copying problems.

PC Todd reports

Recently, a conveniently left open, small window in the lounge of a house in the Maple Grove area, gave an opportunist thief the chance to reach through, open a large window and gain entry. He then searched the ground floor rooms before helping himself to a ladies purse and contents and made off whilst the occupants were sleeping upstairs.

Don't become a victim - please check your doors and windows are secure before going to bed!

Pub Watch

At the monthly meeting a 24year old male was given a 12 month ban from village pubs & clubs for causing damage to a pub window & for his abusive manner! Members of Pub Watch would like all residents to be aware of the action they will take against offenders who behave in an anti-social manner in our pubs. A ban can be issued for 3, 6, 9, 12 months or 5 years. Anyone receiving a ban can be considered for parole after 2, 4, 7, 9 months or 4 years respectively, but only if they have behaved themselves, so be warned!

Enjoy, don't destroy, the pub atmosphere. Till next time, Keith.

Sedgefield Road Safety Group

Alas, it has happened...the first fatality on the new stretch of the A689 since it was re-opened, occurred on Monday 7th September. Just a few days after the accident between a mini bus and a motorcycle, the 20 year-old female motorcycle pillion passenger died from her injuries. Our sympathy goes out to her family & friends. We had tried to convince Durham County Council that there was a need to improve the junction of Stockton Road, Sedgefield with the A689 by realigning Stockton Road to the A177/689 roundabout but were told that the only way that this would be forthcoming was if the Village agreed to new housing being built on the green belt land to the west of Stockton Road.



Analysis so far of the speed checks carried out by the police between July 24th & August 28th show that overall, of those stopped and who received a warning or fixed penalty ticket, 63% were Sedgefield residents! Please slow down. ***It's your village and your children who are at risk!*** As you can see from the photograph, though, the speed indicators we campaigned for have been installed, illustrating the benefit of public consultation. Hopefully it will help to educate drivers to travel at **or below** the maximum speed, whichever is the safer.

The Road Safety Group has been operating for over a year now and we'd appreciate some feedback, so if you have something to say, do drop us a line via The Editor, Sedgefield News, c/o The Council Offices, Front Street, Sedgefield with the reference SRS/1 on any subject regarding road safety issues.

We haven't heard from anyone about the White House Drive issue yet (see September's News) but it is still very much a 'live' topic.

Neighbourhood Watch & First Responders Prize Draw

Although a month late, due to unforeseen technical difficulties, Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & First Responders wish to express their sincere gratitude to all of the following, who so generously sponsored the Prize Draw: *A Cut Above, Barclays Bank, Basil Watson, Black Lion, Calor Gas, Carpets @ Home, Ceddesprint, Cherry Tree Nursery, Chisholm Bookmakers, Co-op, Country Stiles, Cross Hills Hotel, Dowens Est. Agents, Dun Cow Inn, Elizabeth R Maw Optician, Fin Machine Co., George Bolam Foods, Golden Lion, Hardwick Hall Hotel, Identitag, Jaiz, JCB, Jayne's Fashions, Katie's Kitchen, Ken Saiger, Mathew Jones Gents Stylist, Medical Practice, Number 4, Parsons Containers, Peridot, Ranger Transport, Reed Raines Est. Agent, Sedgefield Chemist, Sedgefield Florist, Sedgefield Jewellers, Sedgefield Pottery, Sedgefield Race Course, Selections, Sibcas, Teeschem, Theakston's Store, Sedgefield Town Council, Turners, Veterinary Surgery, & Wrights Construction Ltd.*

Ticket numbers and names for unclaimed Prizes

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Plano Sunglasses | 1274 Bell 630141 |
| Large JCB Model | 1260 Hurst 630707 |
| Cuddly Toy | 1635 R Turner 644551 |
| Golf Umbrella | 1592 No Name 626626 |
| Whisky 2075 | Millie Burgess 620618 |
| £10 Pottery voucher | 1107 Hare 01642 730050 |
| £10 cash | 2157 W E Fenner 620624 |
| £10 Bookies voucher | 1655 AshleyCraggs 620112 |
| £10 Co-op voucher | 1519 Barry 62159? |
| Sedgefield Mug | 2183 Terry (No number) |
| Cuddly Toy | 2420 Alan Hunter 622535 |
| Cuddly Toy | 2343 No name or number |
| Cuddly Toy | 2471 David Johnson 01429 881065 |
| Car Mats | 2150 BW Fenner 620624 |
| Wine | 2371 D Foster 651508 |
| Notelets | 2028 Clegg 629030 |
| Wine | 0349 Amanda 623999 |
| Cut-Above voucher | 2476 Margaret H No number |
| Wine | 0108 G Hall 01429 221321 |
| Wine | 1137 Sellars 01388 819387 |
| Toy Box | 1652 Diane Craggs 620112 |

If you have one of these numbers please contact David Hillerby on 621343 to arrange collection.

Historic park project poised for lift-off

A multi-million pound Durham County Council project to restore an historic hidden landscape to its 18th century glory is about to get under way. Engineering works started in September at Hardwick Park, near Sedgefield, in preparation for the restoration of the nationally important Grade II* Georgian landscape.

The first will re-create the 17-acre lake that disappeared about 150 years ago and restore and conserve various follies. A new visitor centre, car park and entrance forms part of the first phase along with measures to conserve and enhance the park's ecological value.

The County Council has already successfully bid for support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and received £750,000 and the result of a bid for a further £4m grant from the HLF is expected imminently.

Tree clearance work to prepare the way for the re-creation of the lake and the opening up of historic views has started, and the now famous Great Crested Newts are being moved, under the guidance of a consultant ecologist, to the safety of specially restored ponds while the work progresses. The bulk of lake restoration work will be carried out in the spring as weather conditions improve.

Play equipment is already being installed on the site next to the existing visitor facilities and over the coming months a new car park and entrance will emerge.

Restoration work to the follies will start on the Temple of Minerva and the Gothic Seat next spring, followed by the Grand Terrace, Serpentine Lake and round pond.

The landscape garden was created for wealthy coal magnate John Burdon in the 1750s and the buildings were designed by the acclaimed architect James Paine. It is potentially as important as some of Britain's finest gardens, including those at Stourhead and Stowe. In 1972 the County Council acquired the south east portion of the landscape garden, which is now a country park. To safeguard the historic landscape, in 2001 it acquired a further 108 acres of the adjacent East Park, bringing its land holding to around 200 acres.

Ex Lyrics Youth Choir members

enjoyed a re-union concert with the current choir on a relaxed Sunday evening in Ceddesfeld Hall. Rehearsed at lightning speed over the weekend, the performance was polished and entertaining. Most had a party piece to offer and a remarkable variety of styles emerged, as well as a terrific sense of ensemble when the two groups got together.

For the younger singers it was an eye-opener. They learned some complicated numbers (Chattanooga Choo Choo, for one) in record time, pulled along by the noisy enthusiasm of their new companions! The X's have vowed to repeat the experience for the youth choir's 20th anniversary early in 2005, or maybe even next September. The audience seemed to be having as much fun as the choir, many staying behind after the concert to socialise and enjoy a drink.

Withdrawal of Dickens £10 note

Concern has been expressed to Neighbourhood Watch, about this change in legal tender. It seems that many people have not been aware of the fact that the £10 note featuring a photograph of Charles Dickens was withdrawn in July. Its replacement, with a portrait of Charles Darwin, remains in circulation.

It is still possible to exchange your old notes at most Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices, but you are advised to ask for this service as soon as possible.

The notes will no longer be accepted by shops or other retail outlets.

The Bank of England will always exchange old notes and can be contacted at

**Public Enquiries,
Bank of England,
Threadneedle Street,
London EC2R 8AH**
e-mail

enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk
or see www.bankofengland.co.uk

Some light-hearted nonsense!

with thanks to the Orange Peel Gazette.

The Blonde's Diet

A lady was terribly overweight, so her doctor put her on a diet. "I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds".

When she returned, the blonde shocked her doctor. She had lost nearly 20 pounds! "Why, that's amazing!" the doctor said, "Did you follow my instructions?"

She nodded. "Mind you" she protested, "I thought I was going to drop dead on the 3rd day".
"From hunger, you mean?" asked the doctor
"NO! From SKIPPING" came the reply.
(apologies to fair haired ladies everywhere).

“School Buildings should inspire learning. They should nurture every pupil and member of staff. They should be a source of pride and a practical resource for the community”.

A quote from the Department for Education and Science’s definition of the ideal 21st century school building, and right now Sedgefield finds itself right at the heart of this new government initiative:

Building Schools for the Future

Sedgefield Community College is one of just seven secondary schools put forward by Durham County Council to be submitted for participation in this programme.

Consultations have started and the work has to be fast. The deadline for submission is the end of this month, though it should be pointed out that the time-scale of the overall programme is very long - earliest possible completion probably being 2008.

Obviously, direct talks with the college, governors and community stakeholders have been the first priority, but the exciting thing as far as the wider population goes is that there will be a very distinct role for the community. One of the key challenges of BSF (Building Schools for the Future) is

“to develop a network of ‘Community Hubs’, serving not just as schools but as the community focused centre for leisure, learning, community interaction and socialising”.

At a consultation meeting on the 16th September, it became clear that what is envisaged as the community hub is a complex of school buildings catering for everyone from toddler to adult.

Exciting enough in itself, but factor in the prospect of new cultural and sporting facilities and you have plenty of reasons for a high level of interest.

The public is expected to be more involved at a later stage, in developing the detailed proposals – particularly in helping to decide what extra functions the new buildings should encompass.

If this little taster has got you thinking, you can find out more from a web-site, where there is an opportunity for you to input your ideas - www.durham.gov.uk. Follow the links to Education and read all about the initial proposals and the strategies behind them.

If you don’t have access to the Internet, there will be lots more information coming out soon, not least in head-teacher Lynne Ackland’s forthcoming article in next month’s issue of Sedgefield News.

This is to give Notice that
Sedgefield Development Partnership
 will hold its
Annual General Meeting
on Tuesday 18th November
at 7.30pm in
Ceddesfeld Hall

Reports and Questions
 Appointment of half of the
 Board of Directors

Only members of the
 Partnership may vote, but
membership is open to all

The meeting will be followed
 by refreshments

More information will be
 circulated to members
 nearer the time.

Aromatherapy Course

at Ceddesfeld Hall on
 Wednesday evenings
 from 6.30-8.30pm

Learn all you need to know about
 Relaxation & Essential Oils.

SAGE Accounting Course

Are you interested in doing your
 own Accounts?

It’s easy the Sage way!

Contact Bob or Simon for details
 on 629011

101 - October Gigs

1st: Hardwick Arms, Sedgefield

4th: Princess Alice, M’brough

10th: The Normanby Hotel

11th: Dr Browns, Middlesbrough

18th: The Ox Inn, Stanley

19th: The Normanby Hotel

24th: The Cooperage, Bowburn

29th: The Tap & Spile,
 Guisborough

Sedgefield Talent takes the Stage in Ferryhill

Do you recognise any of these names? Chris Bill, Rosemary Jones, Vanessa Matthews, Elsie McGowan, Isobel Wheatley, George Wilkinson. They all hail from these parts and are all members of the cast of the next Ferryhill Operatic Society production, Cole Porter’s lively musical, **“Anything Goes”**.

From Tuesday 4th November to Saturday 8th at Mainsforth & District Community Centre, the show promises fun, laughter and positively oodles of familiar songs, like ‘Friendship’, ‘It’s De-Lovely’ and ‘Take me back to Manhattan’. Tickets are available now, at £6 each, from Maureen Golightly on 654094 & George Wilkinson on 620807.

Don’t miss out on a great night’s entertainment.

Lifelong Learning News

This month I will have completed a full year as Sedgefield Development Partnership's Lifelong Learning Coordinator, so I thought it appropriate to look back at what has been achieved, as well as forward to the future.

First, a brief outline of our activities over the last 12 months.

Over 100 people have attended the numerous and varied courses we have organised, and the number is still growing. Links and partnerships have been forged with other community groups to help provide information and learning to the community.

A Careers fair has been held, where exhibitors from the Armed Services, voluntary sector and other organisations provided information on jobs and career choices.

The recent (2nd) Sedgefield Learning Fayre again gave people the opportunity to find out about courses and voluntary work. Our aim has been to help both individuals and the community at large to learn new skills for work or for leisure.

So, what does the future hold? Well first, we hope to involve community groups in providing a range of activities for a **Family Learning Weekend from 10th to 12th October**. Events will be going on all over the village, including at the Sports College, where a host of activities based around sport, health, diet and fitness will be taking place. Look out for posters around the village or ask at the information centre for a full list of activities. **They are all free.**

At present a wide range of courses, detailed below, are starting at various locations in the village. It's still not too late to enrol, so have a go. Perhaps you could look forward to a more interesting future.

Have fun! Bob Harris

Course Details

Introduction to Computers
Presentation Skills
Desktop Publishing
Conversational Spanish
Basic Art
Aromatherapy Yoga

Lord of the Rings 'Grand Final' - Indian Head Massage, Work-out session and Course Enrolments - all under one roof!

The 2nd Learning Fayre held at the Parish Hall held earlier this month saw approximately 125 people attending throughout the day and provided them with an opportunity to find out what learning and volunteering opportunities are available in the village and surrounding area.

The day proved, indeed, reinforced the fact that learning can include a diversity of activities. In addition to the various colleges and universities present, people were able to benefit from a free aromatherapy hand massage, an Indian head massage or reflexology session and a Rosemary Conley fitness session.

Also present at the Fayre was the impressive BBC and Radio Cleveland Resources bus, which you could explore and find out how live radio broadcasts take place.

It was also the setting for a Lord of the Rings Fantasy Gaming Club tournament. 15 young people who had been competing throughout the summer, met for their final challenge. The overall winner was Jamie Dentith, who won £30 to spend on equipment for a Gaming Club, being set up by Sedgefield Development Partnership. The winner of the painting competition was Edward Hammond, who received a BBC and Radio Cleveland goodie bag.



Competitors and winners in the Tournament

The Fayre was organised by Sedgefield Development Partnership's Lifelong Learning Project. If you were unable to make it on the day, it's not too late to find out about the opportunities available.

Please feel free to call in and see Bob or Simon at the Advice and Information Centre or contact them on **629011**.

Mordon home produce show

At the 16th show on Saturday Sept 13th, the winner with most points was Mavis Elders; runners up, Bett & John Parkinson, & Ann Elders third. The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee presented the Terry Blackie Memorial Plate to Mrs. Elders and the John Robinson Trophy to Kelly Avery, for most points in the children's section. Oliver Whitehouse was runner up & Jodie Elders third. Although entries were down on last year, the auction raised over £50 for the funds.

Detailed results - Adult Section

Bowl of roses - Ann Elders *Single rose* - Mary Peacock
Mixed Flowers & Sweet Peas - Kathleen Hall
Gent's Buttonhole - Wendy Sayers *Ladies Buttonhole* - Ann Elders
Container Display - Dave Sayers *Root Vegetable* - Ann Elders
Green Vegetable & Tray of tomatoes - B & J Parkinson
Loaf of bread, Bread Rolls & Fruit Cake - Ann Elders
Gateau - Mavis Elders *Gingerbread Cake* - Gillian Stanier
Fruit Pie - Ann Bowes *Chutney* - Mrs. J Elders
Preserve - B & J Parkinson
Kit Wines (both sweet & dry) - Mavis Elders
Home Made Wines (both sweet & dry) - B & J Parkinson
Poem (Our Village) - J Parkinson
Photo: People & Pets - Ken & Allison Pallister
Photo: Landscape - Kevin Stevens *Handicrafts* - J Parkinson
Alternative Xmas Lunch - Kevin Stevens

Children's Section

Painting & Biscuit classes - Jodie Elders
Lego Model - Adam Elders
Mask & Card classes - Oliver Whitehouse
Pop Star Painting, Jewellery & Pizza classes - Kelly Avery

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch Monthly Crime figures

| | Aug/Sep 2003 | 2003 to Date | 2002 10/8-0/9 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Youths Causing Annoyance | nil | 5 | nil |
| Burglary Non Dwelling | 4 | 9 | nil |
| Burglary Dwelling | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| Crime Drugs | 1 | 3 | nil |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | nil | 1 | 2 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicles | 3 | 4 | nil |
| Taking & Driving Away | nil | 0 | nil |
| Vehicle Interference | nil | 2 | nil |
| Assaults | nil | 7 | nil |
| Criminal damage | 2 | 13 | 1 |
| Theft | 5 | 18 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 16 | 69 | 6 |

Ode to Village Life

*"Not many people know this"
 As Michael Caine would say,
 But the residents of our village
 Are very special in their way*

*For in our small community
 Such talents we have got
 That here's a few to make you think
 Who are this clever lot?*

*To start, there's the professor
 A paediatrician too
 A surgeon and some nurses
 To help look after you*

*Your money's not forgotten
 Accountants, tax inspector
 Finance adviser, I.T.folk
 And brewery sales director*

*A physicist, and engineers
 Some civil, some mechanical
 Solicitor and farmers
 And flower foam botanical*

*Human resource executive
 And our own master mariner
 Some offshore folk, and last of all
 A property developer*

*Apologies to all of those
 That I forgot to mention
 No offence to anyone -
 That is my intention.*

John Parkinson's winning poem

Cooks Corner Pineapple & Dried Fruit Loaf

Into a saucepan put:
 4ozs Block Margarine
 6ozs Dark Brown Sugar
 12ozs Mixed Dried fruits
 4ozs Glace Cherries (Chopped)
 Small tin pineapple,
 drained & chopped

Cook for 5 minutes, but do not boil.
 Beat 2 eggs and stir into mixture
 with 8ozs self raising flour

Put into 2lb Loaf Tin (greased & lined)
 Bake at Gas Mark 3
 for 1½ hours (approx)
 Leave to cool for 20 minutes
 before turning out

*Cool tip! Especially good for
 freezing individual slices*

Our thanks to Lynne Alderton

October DIARY

Announcements on this page are **free** to
non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield W.I.

meets on

Wednesday October 1st
at 7:15pm in the Parish Hall
for a Musical Evening with
"Tak-ya-back"
and also to enjoy their annual
Harvest Bring & Buy Stall
and a warming bowl of broth.
Competition for members is
a musical box.

Visitors Welcome: Entrance £1

Sedgefield Community College Association Craft Fair

to be held at the College on
Saturday 4th October
from 11am - 3pm

Admission to the fair is FREE

Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Night

The season begins on
Saturday 4th October
starting at 8pm
All welcome

St Catherine's & St Edmund's Ceilidh

to the music of
'Widdershins'

in Sedgefield Parish Hall
Saturday 4th October
7.30 - 11.30pm
Bar

Tickets £5/£3 concessions
including supper

Local History Society

Monday 6th October
at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Bryn Jones of the
HMS Trincomalee Trust
will talk about Britain's
oldest floating warship,
now restored and on show at
Hartlepool Historic Quay

Further details from
Judith Edgoose on 620244
Guests and new members welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

A talk by Darlington Council on
Bedding Displays
Tuesday 7th October
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Guests welcome

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch & Crime Watch Panel

Annual General Meeting
in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
Tuesday 14th October @ 7pm
immediately after the
Bi-monthly General Meeting.
*Everyone is welcome, so
please do come along -
It's In Your Interests!*

Sedgefield Twinning Association

warmly invite you to
a *free concert* by the
Male Voice Choirs and Band
from our Twin Town of
Hamminkeln in Germany
on **Saturday October 18th**
at 5.45pm in St Edmund's Church
They will also perform at an
ecumenical service at St Edmund's
on **Sunday October 19th** at 4pm
You are warmly invited

Family History Group

Monday 20th October
at 7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
Mr Norman Welch will
entertain members with
"Did they ever tie the knot?"
- a talk on clandestine marriages
New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

A demonstration on
"The Joys of Autumn"
by Rita Braithwaite of
Cotherstone
(Durham Area Demonstrator)
Tuesday 21st October
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 23rd October
at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall
The Durham Countryside
a talk by Daryl Cox
Countryside Ranger,
Will include an update on
Hardwick Country Park
For further information
call 620811

Council Quiz Night

a few tickets are left for the
Quiz on Friday October 24th
at **£3.50** to include Pie and Peas
from the Council Offices

After a Mega-Successful summer

Newcastle United FC Football in the Community

offer another course at
Sedgefield Community College
during the October Holidays from
Mon-Thurs 27th-30th October
Sessions will be on the
Astroturf pitch, on grass and
in the Sports Hall for the younger
ones, in case of bad weather.
54 children attended in summer!
*We hope to see you all again -
plus more.*

Variety Concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity

to raise funds for the elderly in
Sedgefield & research into
Alzheimer's disease
at the Community College on
Friday November 28th
featuring College Musicians and
Choir, monologues, Music Hall,
comedy from Sedgefield Players,
Songs from the Shows by a
'Friends' group (including
members of the Mayor's own
family) and music from
Sedgefield Lyric Singers.
**All for only £3 inc Pie & Peas
supper & a glass of wine.**
Tickets on sale now from
Council Offices, A Cut Above,
the Post Office & Selections

Your Letters

Cherish the memorials

I see in the September issue of Sedgefield News that the Town Council are to carry out some tests on headstones and lay down those that fail. The people who erected these headstones believed they were doing so as a memorial to their loved ones for eternity. I believe it is the duty of those responsible to see that they remain standing safely.

In days gone by, every church employed a sexton, part of whose job it was to dig graves and keep the churchyard tidy. This man would be proud of doing so. Are the present officials going to undo his good work?

I believe there is a better way. The appropriate authority should engage a firm of monumental masons to undertake a survey on what is needed to make the gravestones safe, give a quote and, if anything like reasonable, tell them to get on with it. This way we will retain our churchyard as it should be kept, for now and for future generations to cherish.

Yours faithfully

J.H.V. Walker

Here is a response from Lesley Swinbank, the Town Clerk

At present the majority of the 1800 graves in Sedgefield Cemetery have headstones erected. These are the responsibility of the owners or relatives of these who purchased the actual grave space and it is their responsibility to see they remain standing safely.

Whilst headstones and memorials must have prior approval by the Town Council, once erected the repair and maintenance lies with the owner. However, the Town Council reserves the right to take the necessary action on any headstone which has been neglected or does not pass the

Talking News appreciated

I am writing to thank your dedicated team of volunteers who take the time to read Sedgefield News onto tape and distribute these tapes to local people with visual impairment.

This service is very helpful for the house-bound visually impaired person, as they can become very isolated. I would ask your readers, if they know of anyone who has this problem but is not yet receiving this free service, to say how to get in touch.

When I lost my sight I missed reading newspapers etc. which kept me in touch with current news and local events.

Perhaps those readers who advertise with posters may like to remember to let Sedgefield News know of their events, as we miss out on this form of advertising. I do have one more suggestion – that it would be very pleasant if a short description of any photographs could be added. It's not just the written word that we miss.

Yours,

Mary Osel-Cassidy

safety tests. Whilst this may seem harsh at times, the recent death of a child in a local cemetery highlights the dangers that can arise when headstones don't meet the health and safety criteria.

As a result headstones are tested on a six-monthly basis and those failing are laid down. In the majority of cases the owners then contact memorial masons and arrange suitable works.

We realize that laying headstones can be particularly distressing, but we have changed our rules to ensure that new headstones are erected in a more stable way.

Sedgefield Public Toilets

Dear Sirs,

May we raise the issue of the locked toilets in the village? With an increasing population, including the elderly, it is becoming more and more important that these toilets are re-opened to the public.

We appreciate that there have been problems in the past, but the issue must be addressed.

Could not some of the money spent on plants and flowers be better used in providing necessary facilities for villagers and the increasing number of visitors?

Yours faithfully

Mr. & Mrs. H Young
Mordon

Sedgefield Town Council

Temporary Post

**Urgently required -
Reliable person for
Opening & Closing
the Parish Hall.**

The work is on a fortnightly basis to cover sickness and holidays, and is to start **as soon as possible.**

Please contact the Council Offices on **01740 621273**

From the Editor:

For inclusion in the November issue, send copy before October 15th please to

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net

or to **Sedgefield News,**

Advice and Information Centre,
Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 3AS,
or telephone **629011**

We wish to make it clear that views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher.